

connection interconnected computer systems of various departments of a product manufacturer, a process comprising the steps of preparing component parts based on specifications and quantity of the component parts contained in estimated future orders received from a buyer; arranging manufacturing
5 processes for producing products based on specifications and quantity of the component parts contained in actual orders continuously received from the buyer; after finishing a delivery of the products automatically converting specifications and quantity of the delivered products into specifications and quantity of the corresponding component parts through the conversion table;
10 and deleting the specifications and the quantity of the corresponding component parts from the database, thereby automatically integrating information related to the future orders and the delivery. This can significantly simplify checking procedure and reduce checking time with respect to actual inventory of component parts. Also, a more precise estimation of future quantity of
15 component parts is made possible by product manufacturer, thus maintaining inventory of component parts at an optimum.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description taken with the accompanying drawings.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a first preferred embodiment of inventory management system according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a second preferred embodiment of inventory
25 management system according to the invention; and

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing an integration of either inventory management system according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to FIG. 1, there is shown a first embodiment of inventory management system 10 for automatically integrating information related to future orders and delivery in accordance with the invention. The system 10 utilizes a network connection for interconnecting computer systems of various departments of product manufacturer. System 10 comprises a future order processing unit 11 for receiving future orders from buyer (e.g., computer system of buyer) 20 through a network connection, a database 12 for storing information related to component parts (e.g., specifications and quantity of CPUs, hard disk drives, CD-ROMs, sound cards, displays, and so on) specified in the future orders, an inventory processing unit 13 for accessing information related to component parts specified in the future orders from database 12 for analysis so as to prepare the required specifications and quantity of the component parts contained in the future orders and enter inputs of actual inventory of component parts having required specifications and quantity into database 12, an order processing unit 14 for receiving actual orders from buyer 20 through network connection and storing product information (e.g., model and quantity of notebook computer) specified in the orders in database 12 and retrieving the same from database 12, a delivery processing unit 15 for sending product information related to products to be delivered to buyer 20 through network connection and deleting models and quantity of finished products from product information of the inventory in database 12, and a conversion table 16 having a comparison table for storing specifications of various products (e.g., models of notebook computers) and specifications of corresponding various component parts (e.g., specifications of CPUs, hard disk drives, CD-ROMs, sound cards, displays, and so on). Hence, product information listed on actual orders may be quickly

converted into component part information through conversion table 16. Conversion table 16 has one end coupled to both delivery processing unit 15 and buyer 20. As such, as delivery processing unit 15 sends product information related to products to be delivered to buyer 20 product information related to actual orders may be automatically converted into specifications and quantity of corresponding component parts through conversion table 16. Then delete such specifications and quantity of component parts from actual inventory in database 12. This can significantly simplify checking procedure and reduce checking time with respect to actual inventory of component parts. Also, a more precise estimation of future quantity of component parts is made possible by product manufacturer, thus maintaining inventory of component parts at an optimum.

Referring to FIG. 2, there is shown a second preferred embodiment of inventory management system according to the invention. Order processing unit 14 can receive actual orders from buyer 20 through network connection and store product information (e.g., model and quantity of notebook computer) specified in the orders in database 12. Alternatively, order processing unit 14 can convert products listed on the orders into component part information through conversion table 16 prior to storing the same in database 12. Hence, component part department may regularly check a difference (if any) between component parts having required specifications and quantity as specified in orders and actual inventory of component parts. The result may be used as a basis for component part procurement.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing an integration of either inventory management system according to the invention. As shown, product information (e.g., models and quantity of notebook computers) contained in actual orders sent from buyer is automatically converted into component part information through conversion table 16 of inventory management system 10. Hence,